



Your business
is our business.

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 30, 2017

VIA Electronic Comment Filing System

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2017 ETC Annual Report of VTX Telecom, LP
Study Area Code 449050**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of VTX Telecom, LP ("Company"), JSI files the attached FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.¹

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	449050
<015>	Study Area Name	VTX Telecom, LP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Paula Smith
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	9566421194 ext.194
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtxl.net
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

<010>	Study Area Code	449050
<015>	Study Area Name	VTX Telecom, LP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Paula Smith
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No

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**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

<010>	Study Area Code	449050
<015>	Study Area Name	VTX Telecom, LP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Paula Smith
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	9566421194 ext.194
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed voice	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtxl.net
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
510-449050tx510-1.pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards	

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtxl.net
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	610-449050tx610-1.pdf

<010>	Study Area Code	449050
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<020>	Program Year	2018
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net

<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2017
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	25.0

[illegible]

<010>	Study Area Code	449050
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**(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net
<810>	Reporting Carrier	VTX Telecom, LLC.
<811>	Holding Company	Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
<812>	Operating Company	VTX Telcom, LLC.

[illegible]

**(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtxl.net

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtxl.net

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate
comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband
comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
Lifeline
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
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 July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net

1210-449050tx1210-1.pdf

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP www.vtx1.net

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- | | | |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> | Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> | Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> | Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	449050
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Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.
- <2022> Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2025A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017C> Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net

Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}		
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="text"/>
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}		
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="text"/>
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:		
(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="text"/>
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:		
(3019)	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.		<input type="checkbox"/>
	If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:		
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="text"/>

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

<010>	Study Area Code	449050
<015>	Study Area Name	VTX Telecom, LP
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Paula Smith
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4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

**Certification - Reporting Carrier
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtxl.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: VTX Telecom, LP	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 449050	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	449050
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<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date:
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Date:
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

VTX Telecom, LLC

**Response to Lines 500-510 - Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules
Compliance**

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”² The FCC found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement” and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.³ In this context, the FCC stated, “to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement.”⁴

VTX Telecom, LLC (“Company”) hereby certifies that it complies with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules under the Texas Administrative Code, Title 16, Part II, as established by the Public Utility Commission of Texas. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff which discloses rates, terms and conditions of service to customers pursuant to Subchapter J requirements in Sections 26.201-26.230; (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers as identified in Subchapter B, in Sections 26.21-26.37; and (3) service quality standards requirements as identified in Subchapter C, Sections 26.51 -26.57.

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) (“*2005 ETC Order*”).

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: “(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy.” *Id.* at n. 71.

⁴ *Id.* at n. 72.

In addition, the Company complies with numerous federal consumer protection standards including, but not limited to: (1) Truth-in-Billing Rules outlined in 47 CFR § 64.2401; and (2) compliance with Federal CPNI rules, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

VTX Telecom, LLC

Response to Lines 600-610 - Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

VTX Telecom, LLC (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 54, Subpart C, §54.202(a)(2)¹ and the Texas Administrative Code. The Company’s network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations also allows the Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, the Company is able to function under emergency operations in accordance with Public Utility Commission of Texas Substantive Rules §26.51 *Reliability of Operations of Telecommunications Providers* and §26.52 *Emergency Operations* which include obligations for continuity of service and emergency operations planning and service provision capability for dominant carriers. Any central office not equipped with permanently installed standby generators contains as a minimum four hours of battery reserve without voltage falling below the level required for proper operation of all equipment. In addition, all central offices without installed emergency power facilities have a mobile power unit available which can be delivered and connected on short notice.

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to “demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.”

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	449050
<015>	Study Area Name	VTX Telecom, LP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Paula Smith
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	9566421194 ext.194
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	paula.smith@vtx1.net

<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2017
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	25.0

<703>

[illegible]

(800) Operating Companies Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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July 2013

[illegible]

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 LIFELINE PROGRAM

7.3.1 State Lifeline Program

A. General

1. A qualifying low-income customer subscribing to State Lifeline shall receive state reductions to their monthly tariffed residential local exchange access line rate.
2. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for State Lifeline from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications service.
3. State Lifeline rate reductions apply only to basic network service and do not apply to non-basic services, regulated or non-regulated, such as long distance service or custom calling services. Customers may subscribe to these services, where available, at their discretion. If the customer subscribes to a bundled service, where available, the discount shall only apply to the basic network service portion of the bundled service.
4. State Lifeline rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges.
5. The Company may not disconnect the service of a State Lifeline customer for the non-payment of toll charges unless the Company has received a waiver from the Commission allowing disconnection of service for this reason.
6. Upon subscribing to State Lifeline, a customer will be offered a subscription, at no charge, to toll blocking service (in exchanges where technically available) which denies the customer access to the long distance telecommunications network; however, the customer is under no obligation to accept the subscription to toll blocking.
7. The Company will waive number portability charges, subject to the tariff, for the Lifeline customer.
8. State Lifeline rate reductions will not be available on a retroactive basis except as directed by LIDA or the Commission.

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

7.3.1. State Lifeline Program (Continued)

B. Designated Lifeline Program Services

The Company shall offer the voice telephony services defined to be qualified, or designated, Lifeline Program service pursuant to 16 TAC § 26.412(e).

C. State Eligibility Requirement

1. Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer Criteria

State Lifeline rate reductions will be provided per eligible customer. The applicant must certify that their annual household income is at or below 150% of the annual federal poverty guidelines, be an eligible resident of Tribal lands, or participate in, or have a person or child who resides in the customer household who participates in, a program identified in 16 TAC § 26.412(d) regarding consumer qualifications for Lifeline.

2. Obligations of the Customer

- a. A current customer of the Company may be automatically enrolled in State Lifeline by their participation in the qualifying programs or they may self-enroll by contacting the Texas Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA).
- b. A customer who is eligible for State Lifeline, but does not have telephone service at the time of application, shall be responsible for initiating a request for service from the Company.

3. The LIDA reviews the customer application received and determines if the customer meets the eligibility criteria. The LIDA shall provide a list of eligible customers to the Company on a monthly basis.

4. State Lifeline customers will lose their State Lifeline eligibility once they cease to meet income criteria or cease to participate in one of the qualified programs. Customers will be notified by the LIDA for loss of eligibility and given an opportunity to prove eligibility. Reduced billing under State Lifeline will be terminated if eligibility ceases.

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

7.3.1 State Lifeline Program (Continued)

D. Deposit and Credit Requirements

1. The Company shall be prohibited from charging a service deposit in order to initiate State Lifeline if the eligible customer voluntarily elects to receive toll blocking.
2. The Company may charge a service deposit if:
 - a. The eligible customer denies subscription to toll blocking upon subscribing to State Lifeline.
 - b. The Company receives a Commission waiver from having to provide toll blocking due to technical limitations.
3. In instances where the Company may require a service deposit, the same credit verification procedures and deposit regulations used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company are also applicable to eligible customers of State Lifeline.

E. Service Connection and Charges

1. Service connection charges do not apply to eligible customers with existing, qualifying service converting to State Lifeline.
2. Service connection charges do apply when:
 - a. Existing eligible customers requesting additional non-qualifying services at the time Lifeline Program reduced billing is initiated.
 - b. New customers (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for State Lifeline and establishing qualifying service.
 - c. Any subsequent moves or changes after the initial connection to State Lifeline.
3. Applicable service connection charges for the Company are specified in Section 6 of this tariff.

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

7.3.1 State Lifeline Program (Continued)

F. State Lifeline Program Rate Reduction

1. The Company shall provide reduced billing for all State Lifeline eligible customers within its service area after receipt of the list of eligible customers from the LIDA. In instances where the customer makes direct inquiries regarding participation in State Lifeline to the Company, the Company shall make every effort to assist the customer by explaining the necessary steps to become eligible to participate in State Lifeline and direct the customer to the LIDA for completion of the required forms for eligibility certification.

If the eligible customer's existing telephone service arrangements meet State Lifeline criteria, the Company shall provide reduced billing as indicated above.

2. Amounts

The Company shall apply State Lifeline rate reductions, per eligible customer, as described below

- a. State Reduction. The Company shall give qualifying low-income consumers a state-approved reduction of up to a maximum of \$3.50 in the monthly amount of intrastate charges due pursuant to 16 TAC § 26.412(f)(1)(C), in addition to the Area Discount described below.
- b. Additional Lifeline Area discount. The Company shall grant qualifying low-income consumers in the service areas of Verizon Southwest a monthly discount composed of up to 25% of any actual rate increase amount pursuant to the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan Area Discount in 16 TAC § 26.412(f)(1)(D).
- c. Combined Lifeline discounts. The Company shall apply the above discounts, however, the combined discounts shall not result in a rate of less than zero charged for the customer's basic local service.

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

N

7.3.2 Federal Lifeline Program

A. General

1. A qualifying low-income customer subscribing to designated federal Lifeline Program Services, as outlined below, is eligible to receive federal reductions to either his/her monthly tariffed residential local exchange access line rate and federal subscriber line charge or his/her monthly retail rate for an eligible broadband service. The qualifying low-income customer can only receive one federal discount on one service option.
2. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for the federal Lifeline Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications service.
3. The federal Lifeline Program rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges, except that customers eligible for the Tribal Link Up Program will receive a 100% reduction, up to \$100.00, on applicable service connection charges, as provided in Subsection 7.4 of this tariff.
4. The Company may not disconnect the service of a federal Lifeline Program customer for the non-payment of toll charges unless the Company has received a waiver from the Commission allowing disconnection of service for this reason.
5. Upon subscribing to the federal Lifeline Program, a customer will be offered a subscription, at no charge, to toll blocking service (in exchanges where technically available) which denies the customer access to the long distance telecommunications network; however, the customer is under no obligation to accept the subscription to toll blocking.

N

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

N

7.3.2 Federal Lifeline Program (Continued)

A. General (Continued)

6. The Company will waive number portability charges, subject to the tariff, for the Lifeline customer.
7. The federal Lifeline Program rate reductions will only be issued on a going-forward basis and will not be available on a retroactive basis except as directed by LIDA or the Commission.
8. Partial payments made by Lifeline customers will be applied first toward charges for local service.

B. Designated Federal Lifeline Program Services

1. The Company shall offer the voice telephony service and broadband service defined to be qualified, or designated, federal Lifeline Program service as enumerated in 47 Code of Federal Regulations §54.101(a)(1) and (2) (relating to Supported Services for Rural, Insular and High Cost Areas).
2. For voice service, the federal Lifeline Program rate reductions apply only to basic local exchange service and do not apply to non-basic services, regulated or non-regulated, such as long distance service or custom calling services. Customers may subscribe to these services, where available, at their discretion.
3. For broadband service, the federal Lifeline Program rate reductions apply to the monthly recurring retail rate for eligible broadband service provisioned by the Company or its affiliated Internet Service Provider.
4. All designated federal Lifeline Program services are subject to minimum service standards delineated in 47 Code of Federal Regulations §54.408.

N

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

7.3.2 Federal Lifeline Program (Continued)

C. Eligibility Requirement

1. Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer Criteria

The federal Lifeline Program rate reductions will be provided per eligible customer, limited to one discount per eligible household location. The applicant must certify that their annual household income is at or below 135% of the annual federal poverty guidelines, be an eligible resident of Tribal lands, or participate in, or have a person or child who resides in the customer household who participates in, a program identified in 47 Code of Federal Regulations § 54.409.

2. Obligations of the Customer

a. A current customer of the Company may be automatically enrolled in the federal Lifeline Program by their participation in the qualifying programs or they may self-enroll by contacting the Texas Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA).

b. A customer who is eligible for the federal Lifeline Program, but does not subscribe to a designated federal Lifeline Program service at the time of application, shall be responsible for initiating a request for a designated federal Lifeline Program service from the Company before any federal Lifeline Program discounts will be administered.

3. The LIDA reviews the customer application received and determines if the customer meets the eligibility criteria for the federal Lifeline Program. The LIDA shall provide a list of eligible customers to the Company on a monthly basis.

4. Federal Lifeline Program customers will lose their federal Lifeline Program eligibility once they cease to meet income criteria or cease to participate in one of the qualified programs. Customers will be notified by the LIDA for loss of eligibility and given an opportunity to prove eligibility. Reduced billing under the federal Lifeline Program will be terminated if eligibility ceases.

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

N

7.3.2 Federal Lifeline Program (Continued)

D. Deposit and Credit Requirements

1. The Company shall be prohibited from charging a service deposit for Lifeline voice-only service plans in order to initiate the federal Lifeline Program if the eligible customer voluntarily elects to receive toll blocking.
2. The Company may charge a service deposit if:
 - a. The eligible customer denies subscription to toll blocking upon subscribing to the federal Lifeline Program.
 - b. The Company receives a waiver from having to provide toll blocking due to technical limitations.
3. In instances where the Company may require a service deposit, the same credit verification procedures and deposit regulations used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company are also applicable to eligible customers of the federal Lifeline Program.

E. Service Connection and Charges

1. Service connection charges do not apply to eligible customers with existing, qualifying service converting to the federal Lifeline Program.
2. Service connection charges may apply when:
 - a. Existing eligible customers request additional non-qualifying services at the time federal Lifeline Program reduced billing is initiated, or anytime thereafter.
 - b. New customers (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for the federal Lifeline Program first order a designated federal Lifeline Program service.
 - c. Existing eligible customers request any subsequent moves or changes to their service after the initial connection to the federal Lifeline Program.

N

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 **LIFELINE PROGRAM** (Continued)

7.3.2 **Federal Lifeline Program** (Continued)

E. Service Connection and Charges (Continued)

3. In instances where service connection charges apply, customers qualifying for the federal Lifeline Program may qualify for the Tribal Link-Up Program and may be eligible to receive a reduction in the applicable service connection charges.
4. Applicable service connection charges for the Company are specified in Section 6 of this tariff.

F. Federal Lifeline Program Rate Reduction

The Company shall provide reduced billing for all federal Lifeline Program eligible customers within its service area after receipt of the list of eligible customers from the LIDA. In instances where the customer makes direct inquiries regarding participation in the Lifeline program to the Company, the Company shall make every effort to assist the customer by explaining the necessary steps to become eligible to participate in the Lifeline Program and direct the customer to the LIDA for completion of the required forms for eligibility certification.

1. If the eligible customer's existing voice or broadband service arrangements meet the federal Lifeline Program criteria, the Company shall provide reduced billing as indicated above.
2. If the eligible customer's existing voice or broadband service arrangements do not meet the federal Lifeline Program criteria, the Company shall:
 - a. advise the eligible customer by direct mail of the impending termination of his or her Lifeline service; and
 - b. allow a subscriber 30 days following the date of the impending termination letter required to demonstrate continued eligibility.

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.3 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

N

7.3.2 Federal Lifeline Program (Continued)

F. Federal Lifeline Program Rate Reduction (Continued)

2. If the eligible customer's... (Continued)
 - c. If the eligible customer chooses to make the necessary changes to their service arrangements, the eligible customer will receive reduced billing per the federal Lifeline Program at the time the change is effective or at the time new service is established.
3. If the Company charges a federal End User Common Line Charge (a.k.a. Federal Subscriber Line Charge), the federal Lifeline Program support amount must be applied to waive the federal End User Common Line Charge for federal Lifeline Program subscribers.

G. Federal Lifeline Program Support Amount

The Company shall apply federal Lifeline Program rate reductions, per eligible customer, as described below.

1. The Company shall grant federal support to qualifying low-income consumers up to \$9.25 per month, subject to the support amount directed by the Federal Communications Commission in 47 Code of Federal Regulations § 54.403 regarding Lifeline support amount.
2. The federal Lifeline Program discounts shall not result in a rate of less than zero charged for the customer's qualifying voice or broadband service.
3. Tribal Lands Support Amount (where applicable). Additional federal Lifeline support of up to \$25 per month will be made available to qualifying eligible residents of Tribal lands.

N

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

7.4 TRIBAL LINK UP PROGRAM

7.4.1 Program Description

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| A. | Tribal Link Up is a federally certified telephone assistance program designed to make telecommunications service accessible to low-income consumers who reside on tribal lands and who are currently not on the public switched network. | T |
| B. | Under the Tribal Link Up program, charges assessed for commencing service include any charges that the Company customarily assesses to connect subscribers to the network. Deposits, if applicable, are not subject to Tribal Link Up program discounts. | |
| C. | Assistance provided: | T |
| 1. | Eligible Tribal Link Up applicants will receive a reduction of 100% of the customary charges for connection of telephone service, up to a maximum of \$100. | T |
| 2. | Customers may elect to defer payment of the charges assessed for commencing service over a period not to exceed one year. Interest charges will not apply to the deferred payments. | T |
| | | T |
| | | D |
| | | D |
| D. | A customer otherwise eligible to receive the Tribal Link Up shall not be prohibited from obtaining and using telecommunication equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunication services. | T |
| E. | The Company will provide Tribal Link Up assistance to all qualifying low-income consumers identified by the Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) within its service area pursuant to the provisions of this tariff. | |